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REMARKS

Claims 57-60 and 76-78 are pending in the subject application. No claim has been added, canceled or amended herein. Accordingly, claims 57-60 and 76-78 are still pending and under examination.

The Claimed Invention

Claims 57-60 and 76-78 provide a method for identifying an agent which inhibits tumor invasion in a local cellular environment. This method comprises: (a) providing a solid support coated with amphoterin; (b) contacting the solid support with a tumor cell which expresses receptor for advanced glycation endproducts (RAGE) under appropriate cell culture conditions for cell migration and growth; (c) admixing to the tumor cell culture of step (b) an agent to be tested; (d) determining the amount of spreading of the tumor cells on the solid support; and (e) comparing the amount of spreading of the tumor cells determined in step (d) with the amount of spreading determined in an identical tumor cell culture in the absence of the agent, wherein a decrease in the amount of spreading determined in step (d) indicates that the agent is identified as an agent which inhibits tumor invasion in the local cellular environment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 57-60 and 76-78 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Hori, et al. (J. Biol. Chem. 1995; 270(43):25752-25761) ("Hori") in view of Miki, et al. (Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun. 1993 Oct.

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29:196(2):984-9) ("Miki") and Parkkinen, et al. (J. Bio.Chem. 1993 Sept. 268(26):19726-19738) ("Parkkinen").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 57-60 and 76-78.

In order to find the subject application obvious over Hori in view of Miki and Parkkinen, the prior art references, in combination, must teach or suggest all the elements thereof, and create both a motive to combine and a reasonable expectation of success. Hori, Miki and Parkkinen fail to do this.

Claims 57-60 and 76-78 are discussed above. Again, claim 57 provides a method for identifying an agent which inhibits tumor invasion in a local cellular environment. This method comprises, in relevant part, contacting an *amphoterin-coated solid support with a tumor cell* which expresses receptor for advanced glycation endproducts (RAGE) under appropriate cell culture conditions for cell migration and growth and the agent to be tested.

Applicants note that nowhere does Hori teach or suggest contacting an amphoterin-coated solid support with a tumor cell expressing RAGE and an agent to be tested. In contrast to the claimed invention, the method taught in Hori involves the interaction between amphoterin and neuronal cells. Accordingly, Hori fails to teach or suggest contacting an amphoterin-coated solid support with a tumor cell. Similarly, nowhere in Miki or Parkkinen is this element taught or suggested.

Thus, the cited references, in combination, fail to teach or

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suggest all elements of the claimed method. Consequently, and also for the reasons set forth in applicants' October 27, 2004 Communication, they also fail to create a motive to combine or a reasonable expectation of success.

Accordingly, applicants maintain that the subject claims are not obvious over Hori in view Miki and Parkinnen, and therefore satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following reference. The applicable fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is \$180.00, and a check for that amount is enclosed.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted as a supplement to the Information Disclosure Statements filed August 9, 2001 and December 30, 2004. The applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the following reference which is listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

1. U.S. Patent Application No. 09/851,071, for Ann Marie Schmidt and David Stern, filed May 8, 2001 (**Exhibit B**).

Applicants request that the Examiner review the reference and make it of record in the subject application.

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Summary

For the reasons set forth hereinabove, applicants respectfully request that all the claims of this application be allowed, and that the application proceed to issuance.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the number provided below.

No fee, other than the \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for filing an Information Disclosure Statement, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Communication. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

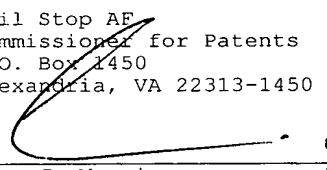
Respectfully submitted,



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4/26/01
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